

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: : Group Art Unit: 1645  
THACKER, James D. :  
App. No.: 10/020,923 : Examiner: Hines, Jana A.  
Filed: December 19, 2001 :  
Title: METHODS FOR THE RAPID DETECTION OF ACTIVELY RESPIRING  
MICROORGANISMS

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**MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

**a.) Preliminary Remarks.**

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the non-final Office Action, mail dated December 29, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments, and reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the amendments and Applicant's remarks below.

**b.) Amendments to the Specification.**